

AmeriCorps Evaluation Research Questions

Research questions for *process evaluations* ask:

Who?
What?
When?
Where?
Why?

About:

Inputs/resources
Program activities
Outputs
Stakeholder views

Research questions for *impact evaluations* ask about:

Changes?
Effects?
Impacts?

In:

(Short-term)	(Medium-term)	(Long-term)
Knowledge	Behaviors	Conditions
Skills	Actions	Status
Attitudes		
Opinions		

Examples of process evaluation questions:

- Is the program model being implemented with fidelity across all service sites? Why or why not? What best practices are sites/members using that could be adopted more broadly?
- Are there barriers to serving people in the identified beneficiary group? How could barriers be reduced/removed?
- How effective is our member pre-service orientation? How could it be improved to better prepare members to provide high quality service as they begin their term of service?
- What recruitment strategies are the most successful in locating qualified prospective members?
 - What recruitment messages attract the greatest interest?
 - Which channels brought in qualified applicants? (e.g., campus online job boards, social media, etc.)
- How effective is each step in the process of signing up prospective members from their initial expression of interest to signing a member service agreement and beginning their term of service?

Examples of impact evaluation questions:

- 1. Among parents with prior CPS history, were parents who received program services less likely than parents without such services to experience new allegations of maltreatment?
- 2. Which factors predict lower likelihood of recurrence, such as prior contact with the child welfare system, demographic characteristics, home visiting program dosage, or baseline risk factors as measured by the AAPI?
- 1. Do the 3rd grade students in the AmeriCorps ABC Reads literacy tutoring program show more growth in reading proficiency than a comparable group of 3rd graders that did not receive literacy tutoring?
- 2. How do 3rd grade student outcomes in literacy proficiency measured by the district using the STAR Early Literacy Test compare with 3rd grade reading proficiency outcomes as currently measured by the program using Rigby?